

Committee Chair, Co-Chair and Members,

A recent article, entitled, "*State Tax Chief Encourages Inspectors To Enter Homes; Refusal Could Lead To Higher Assessment*" reports the violation of a Michigan's citizens' fourth Amendment rights and this property owner taxes going up after an accessor was denied entry. This is unconscionable.

This is one story that came to light. How many others are there that have not? **However, if there was just one story that is reason enough to support HB 5172 & 5173 as written.**

The Fourth Amendment protects a person's home," said Patrick Wright, director of the Mackinac Center Legal Foundation. "You need a warrant to go in. An inspector would be able to come to the outside to an area called the 'curtilage' and essentially that's the area where you can start seeing inside the windows. And they can come up to that point, but if they look inside they are violating the Fourth Amendment and need a warrant.

Additionally, According to anaylaiss by the House Fiscal

Agency <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/billanalysis/House/pdf/2013-HLA-5172-14C29736.pdf>

FISCAL IMPACT:

As written, the bill could have a negative, **but likely very small**, impact on state and local revenues. Any impact would result from property owners making substantial interior improvements to existing structures and then denying an assessor access to that property. **These instances are likely to be rare**, as interior assessments are not common and major renovations may require permits, which would alert assessors to potential increases in taxable value without the need for an interior assessment.

Please support Michigan citizens Fourth Amendment rights and vote to report out HB 5172 & HB 5173 with favorable recommendations.

Thank you,

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"There is but one straight course, and that is to seek truth and pursue it steadily."
George Washington, letter to Edmund Randolph — 1795